

# April 2023 Weather Digest



# April 2023 Weather Summary

**April is climatologically the driest month of the year and 2023 confirmed that and then some. The majority of locations ended the month with 0.00" with only a few stray showers over the high terrain. Water year precipitation totals, which were already above average due to a wet winter season, drifted closer to climate normals in April. One notable wind event was recorded the days of April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, with a Pacific low crossing the southern Rockies and a strong cold front causing 50-60 mph wind gusts and blowing dust.**

**Snowmelt was in full swing with the warmer temperatures, increasing river levels in the upper Rio Grande basins and Elephant Butte storage to 21.9%. This is higher than previous years and signals better irrigating conditions this summer, provided monsoon precipitation is near normal.**

# April 2023 Weather Summary

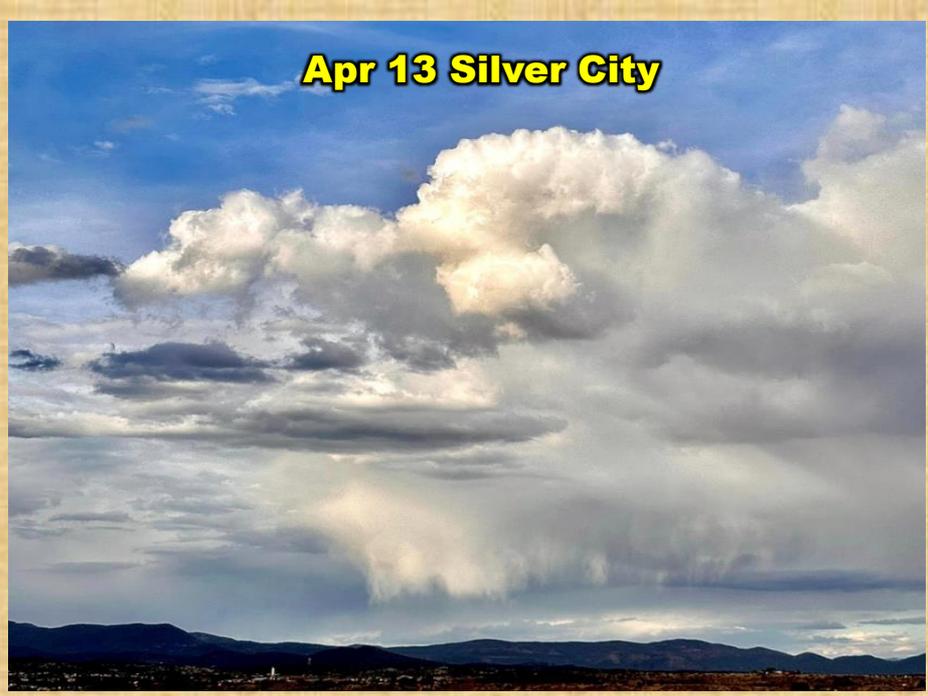
Looking ahead to May, Climate Prediction Center outlooks favor equal chances for temperature and precipitation trends. Continued dry conditions may allow drought conditions to return to portions of southern New Mexico. Wildfire risk typically peaks this month and current fuel conditions confirm this risk.

Temperatures will continue to warm with the average high temperature in El Paso going from 82 degrees on May 1<sup>st</sup> to 91 degrees by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Daylength increases by nearly 40 minutes in May, reaching 14 hours of daylight by May 27<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation normals tick up, but remain rather low since monsoon onset usually don't occur until June/July. This month's full moon occurs May 5<sup>th</sup>, with the new moon phase on May 19<sup>th</sup>. There is a lunar eclipse occurring on May 5<sup>th</sup>, but North America will not be able to see it.

**Apr 13 Silver City**



**Apr 13 Silver City**



**Apr 13 Silver City**



**Apr 15 Mimbres**



# **ENSO Alert System Status: El Niño Watch in Effect**

## **ENSO Alert System**

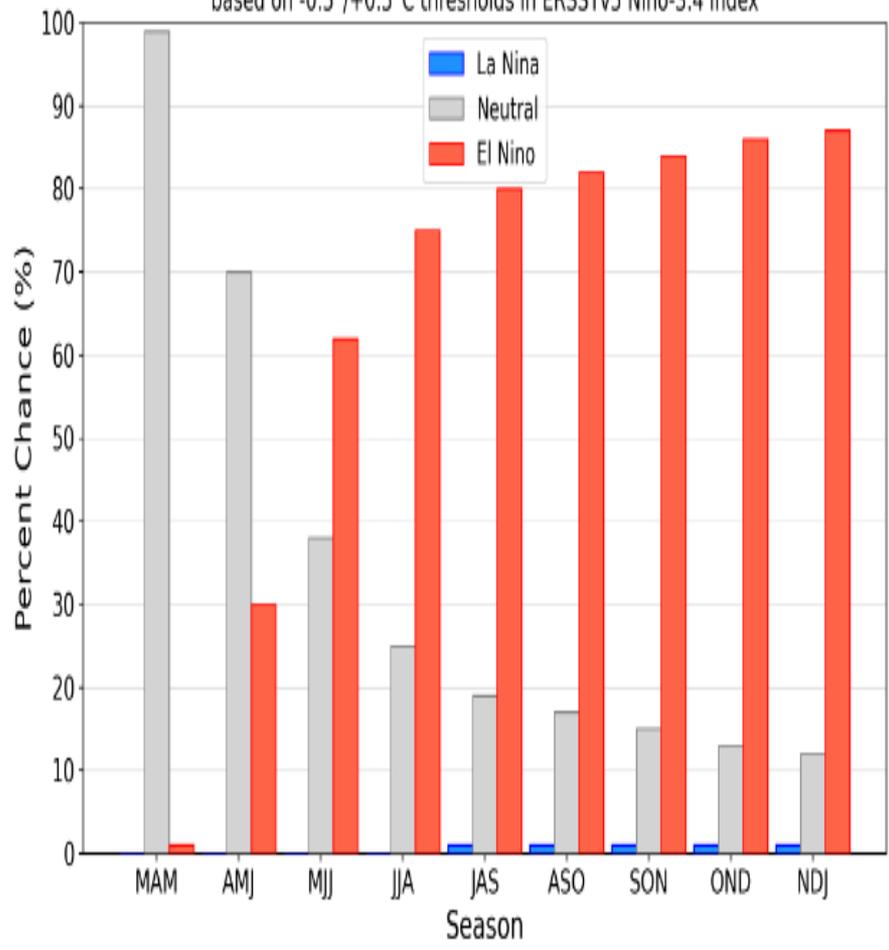
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

# ENSO Forecast

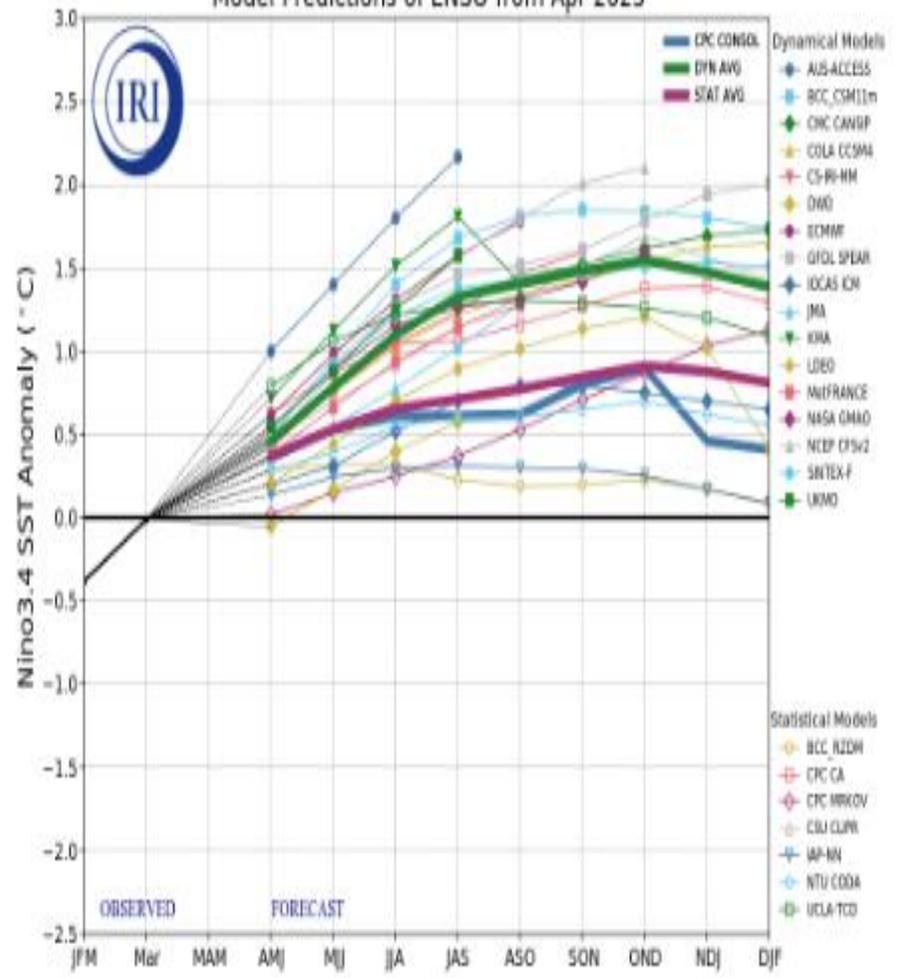
**ENSO is transitioning to a neutral status. Forecast shows neutral likely transitioning to El Niño toward the end of summer or beginning of fall.**

Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued Apr. 2023)

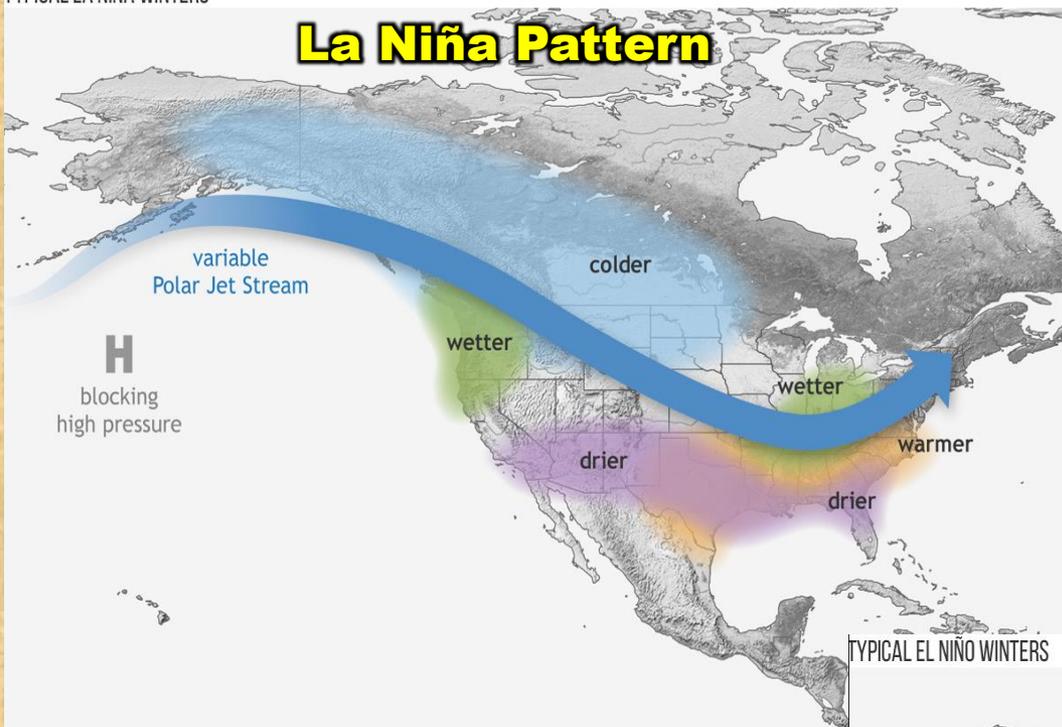
based on  $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  thresholds in ERSSTv5 Niño-3.4 index



Model Predictions of ENSO from Apr 2023

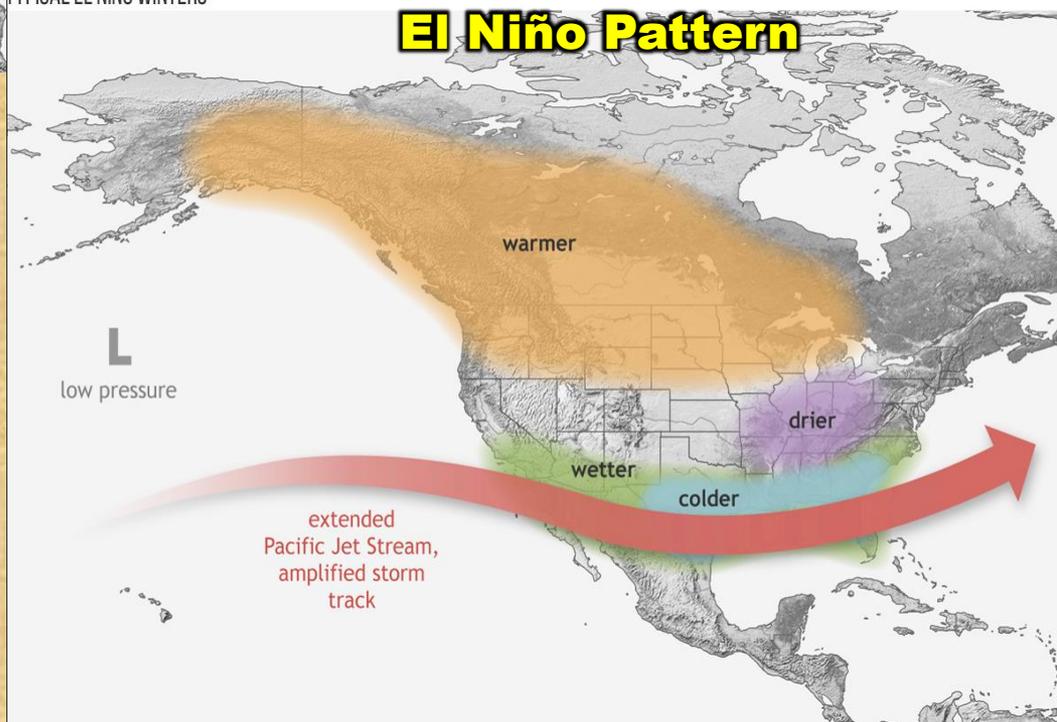


# La Niña Pattern



With a La Niña pattern, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that these patterns are only what typically happens and are not guaranteed to occur.

# El Niño Pattern

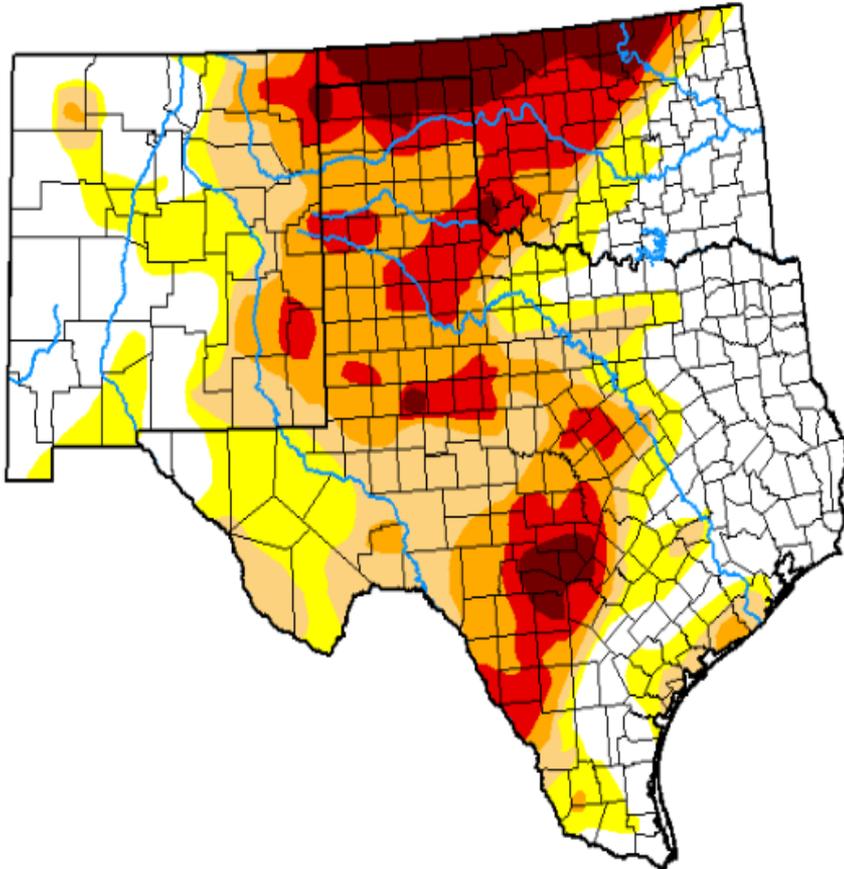


With El Niño, we often see the opposite pattern where the eastern Pacific ridge of high pressure is often weak or non-existent, allowing winter storms to sweep across the southern U.S. This typically will give the southwestern U.S. above normal precipitation.

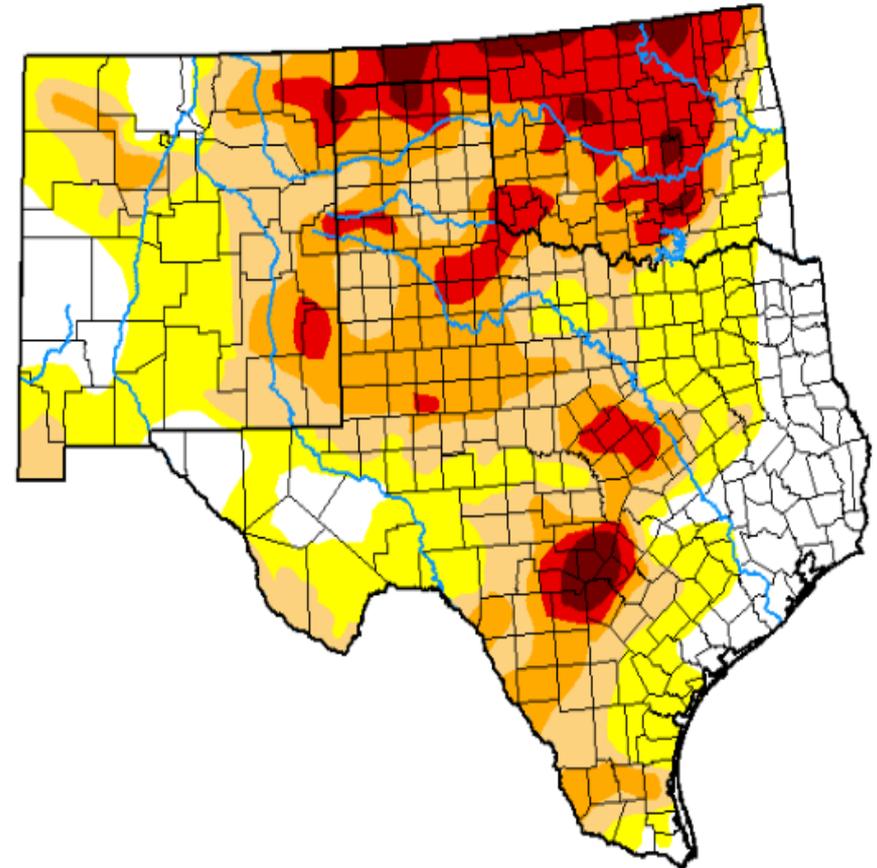
# Current drought conditions and 3 month change

- Abnormally Dry – D0
- Moderate Drought – D1
- Severe Drought – D2
- Extreme Drought – D3
- Exceptional – D4

**April 25, 2023**

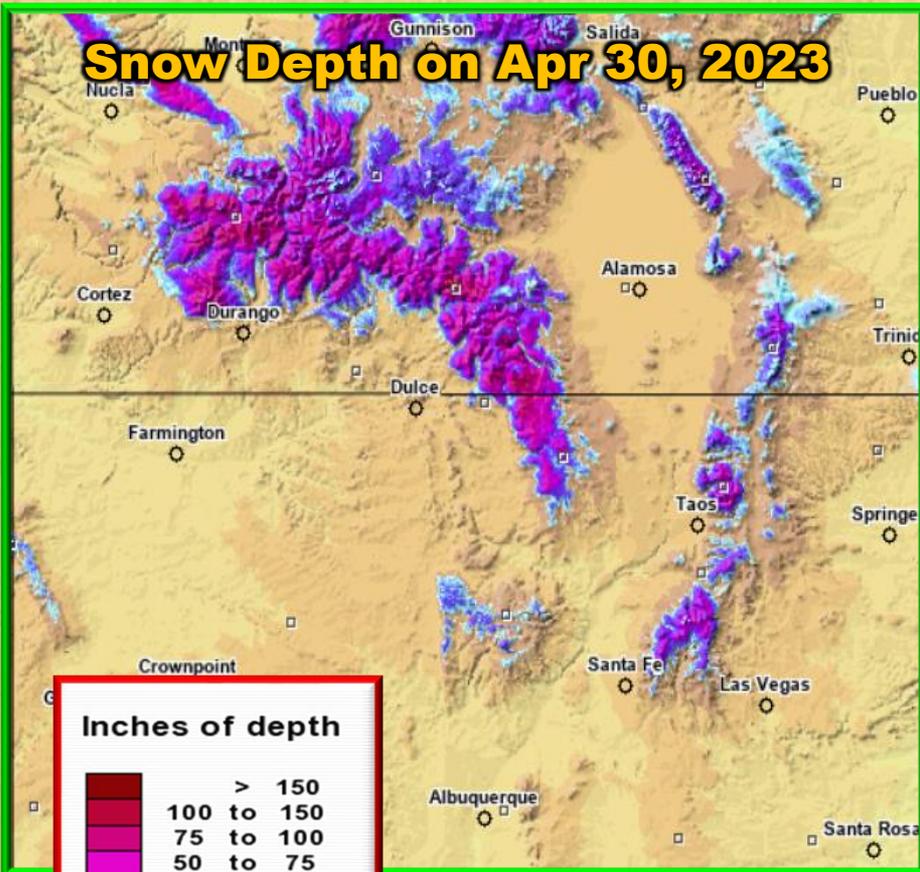


**January 31, 2023**

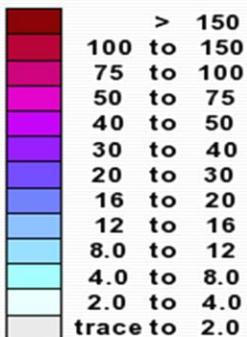


# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Apr 30, 2023

## Snow Depth on Apr 30, 2023

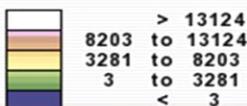


### Inches of depth

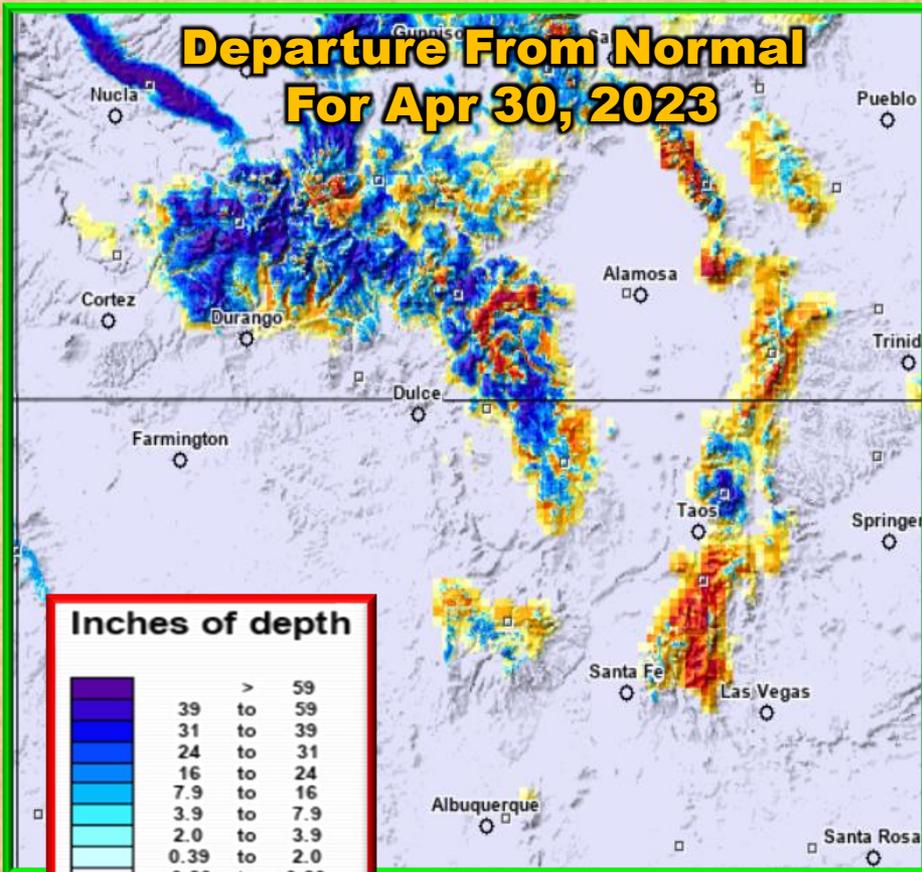


Not Estimated

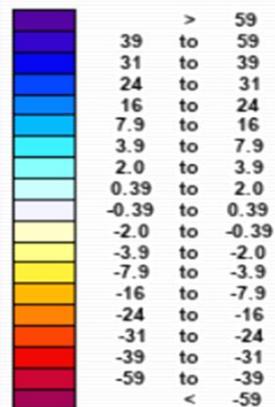
### Elevation in feet



## Departure From Normal For Apr 30, 2023



### Inches of depth



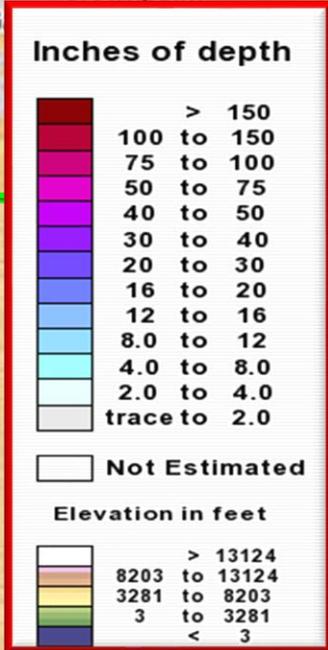
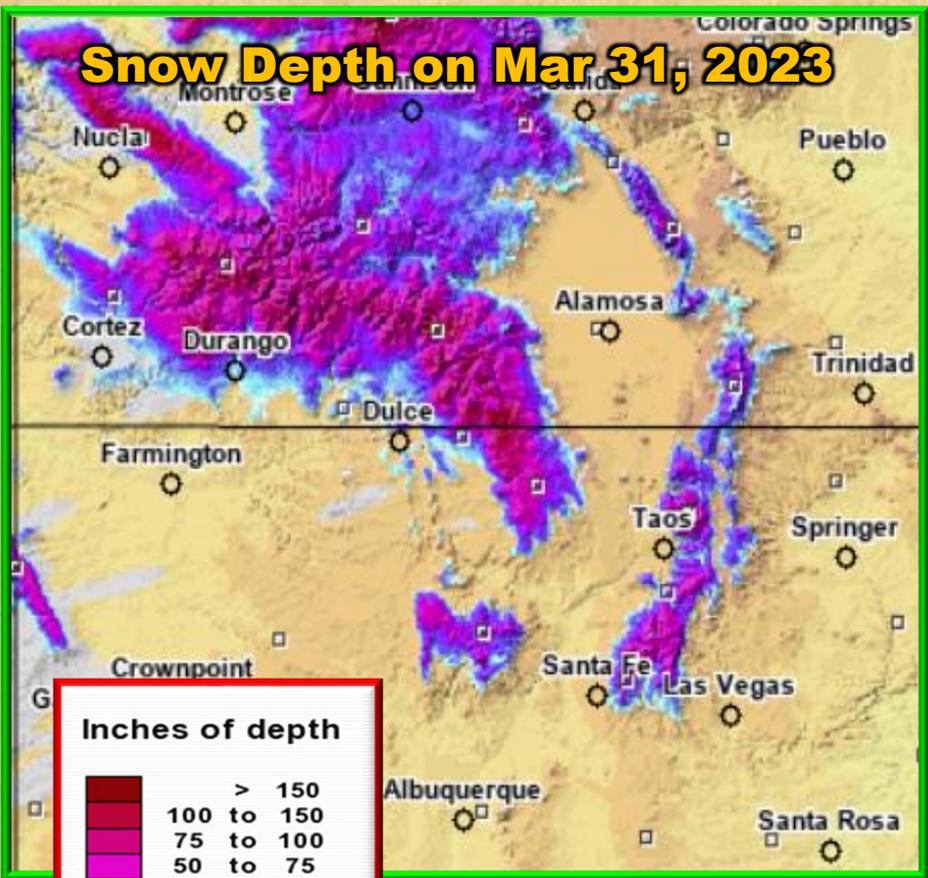
Not Estimated

### Elevation in feet

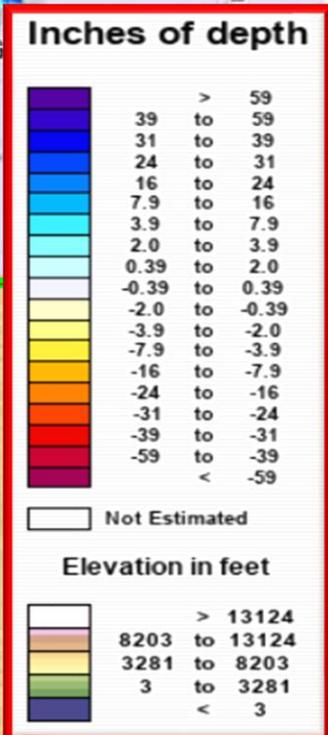
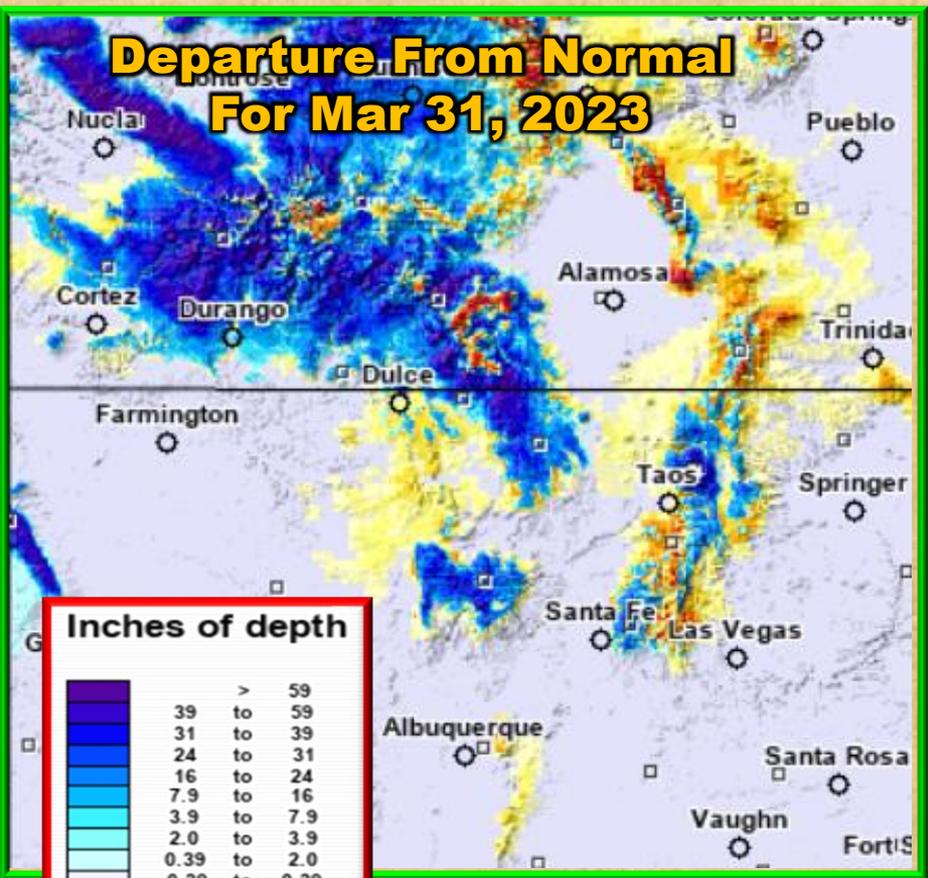


# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of March 31, 2023

## Snow Depth on Mar 31, 2023

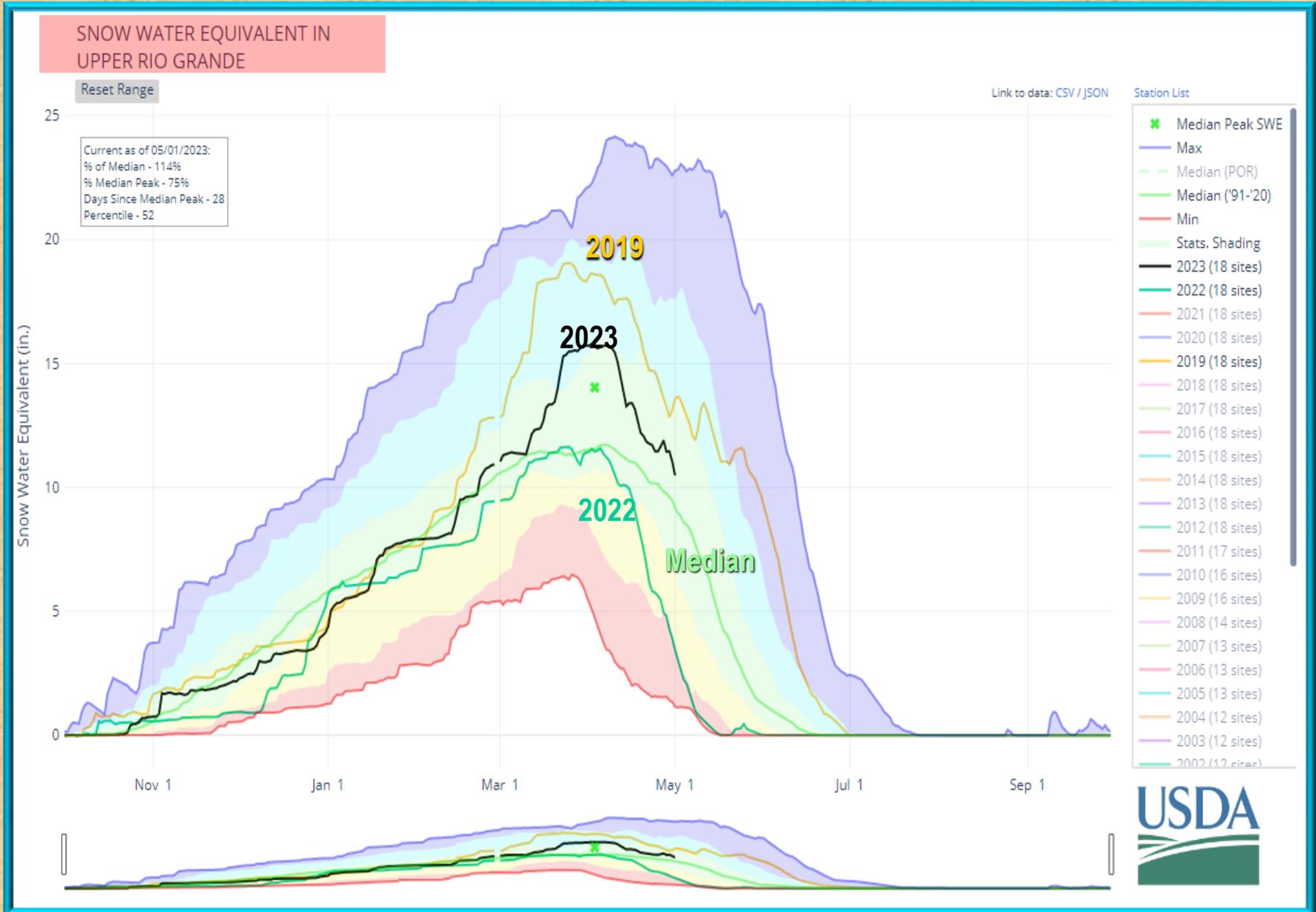


## Departure From Normal For Mar 31, 2023



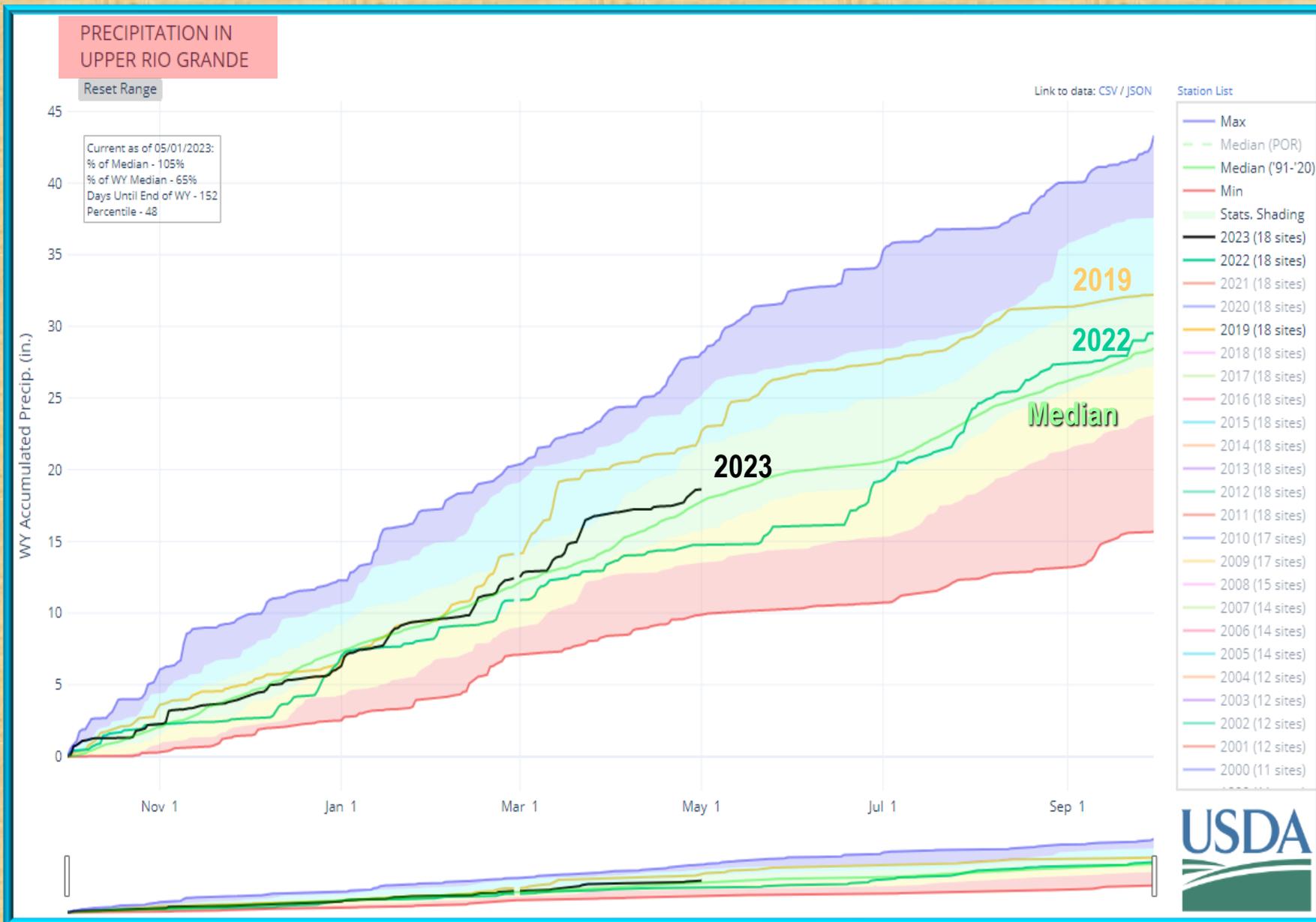
# Snow Water Equivalent as of Apr 30, 2023

## Compare to last few years and average values



# Precipitation for the Water Year Oct 1 – Apr 30, 2023

## Compare to last few years and average values

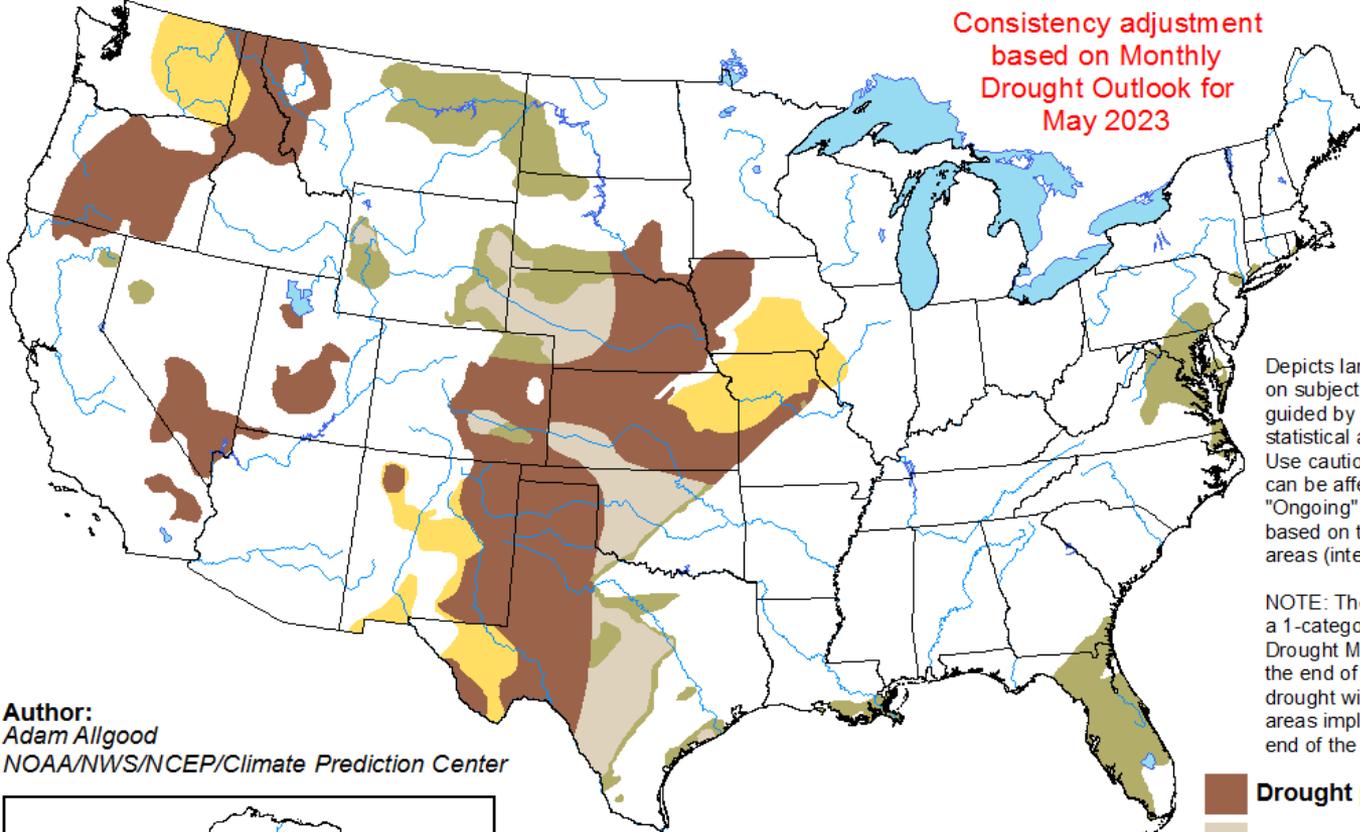


# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 1 - July 31, 2023  
Released April 30, 2023

Consistency adjustment  
based on Monthly  
Drought Outlook for  
May 2023

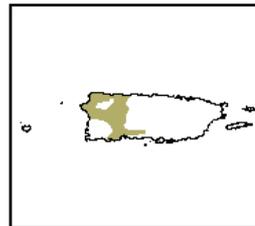
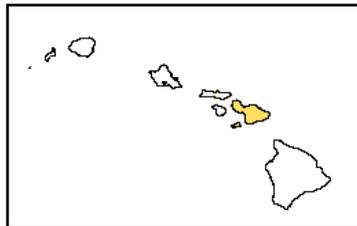
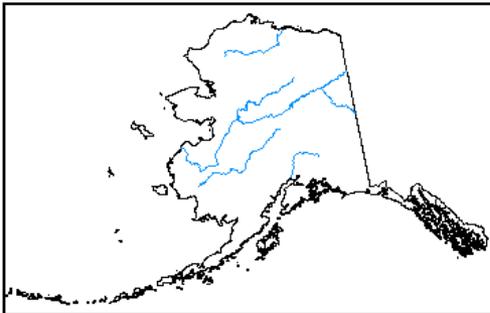


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:  
Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

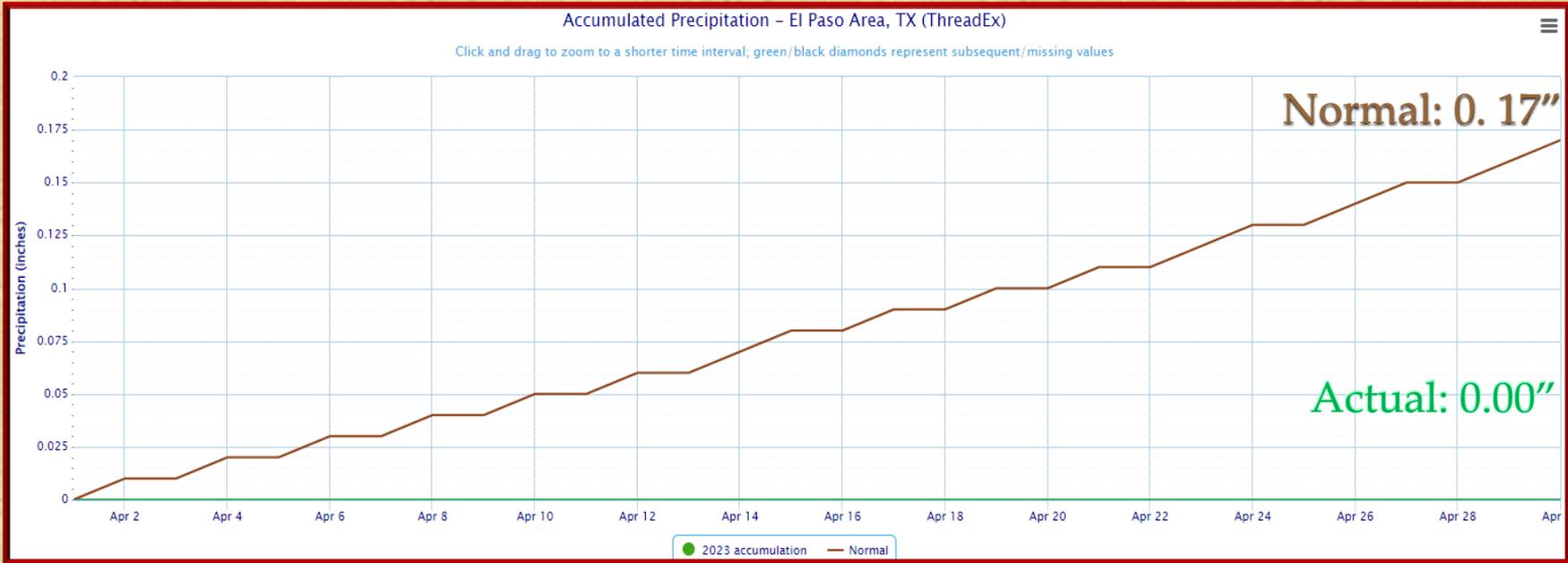
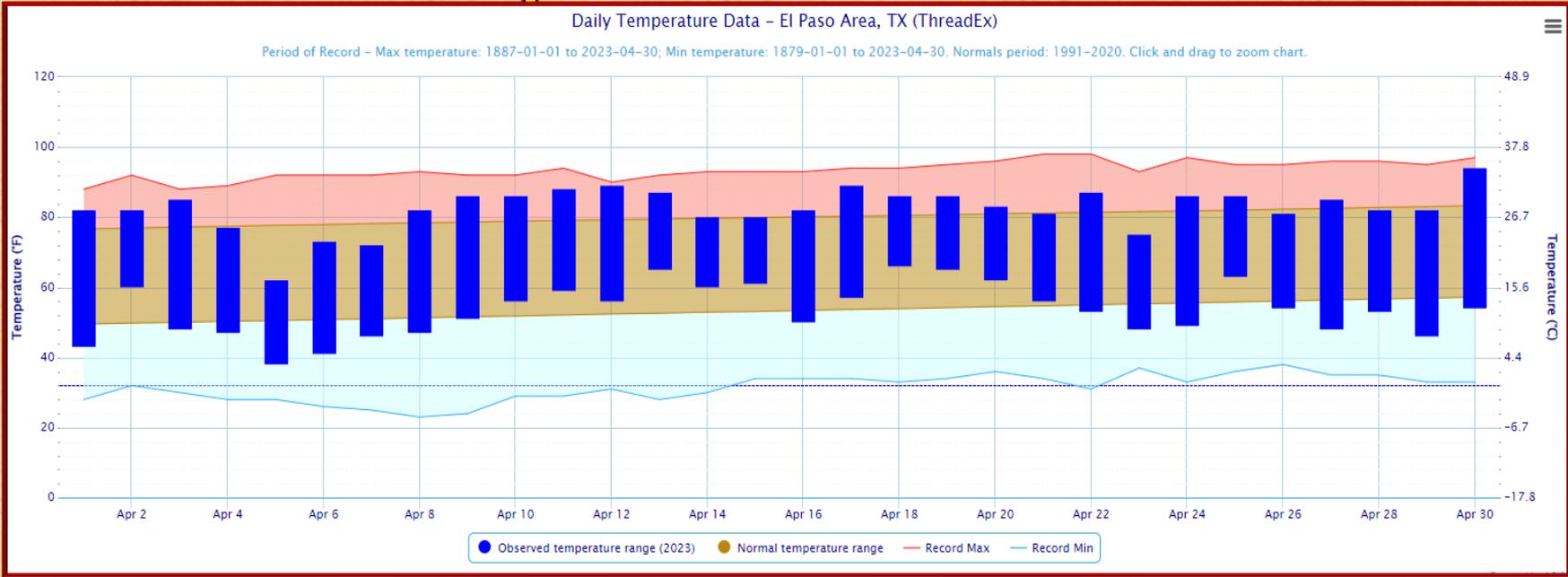
-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely



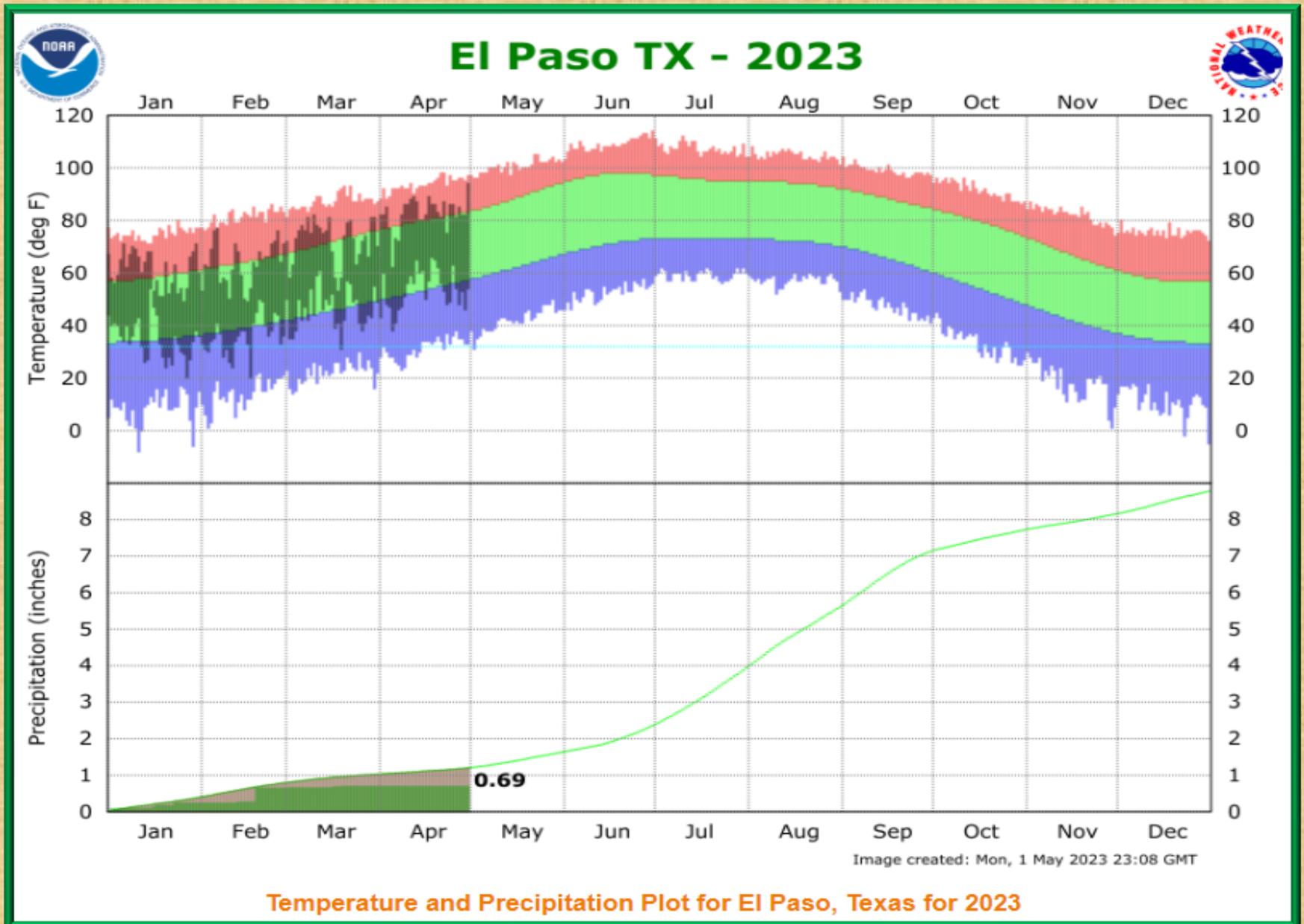
<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

# Temperature and precipitation data for April 2023 in El Paso

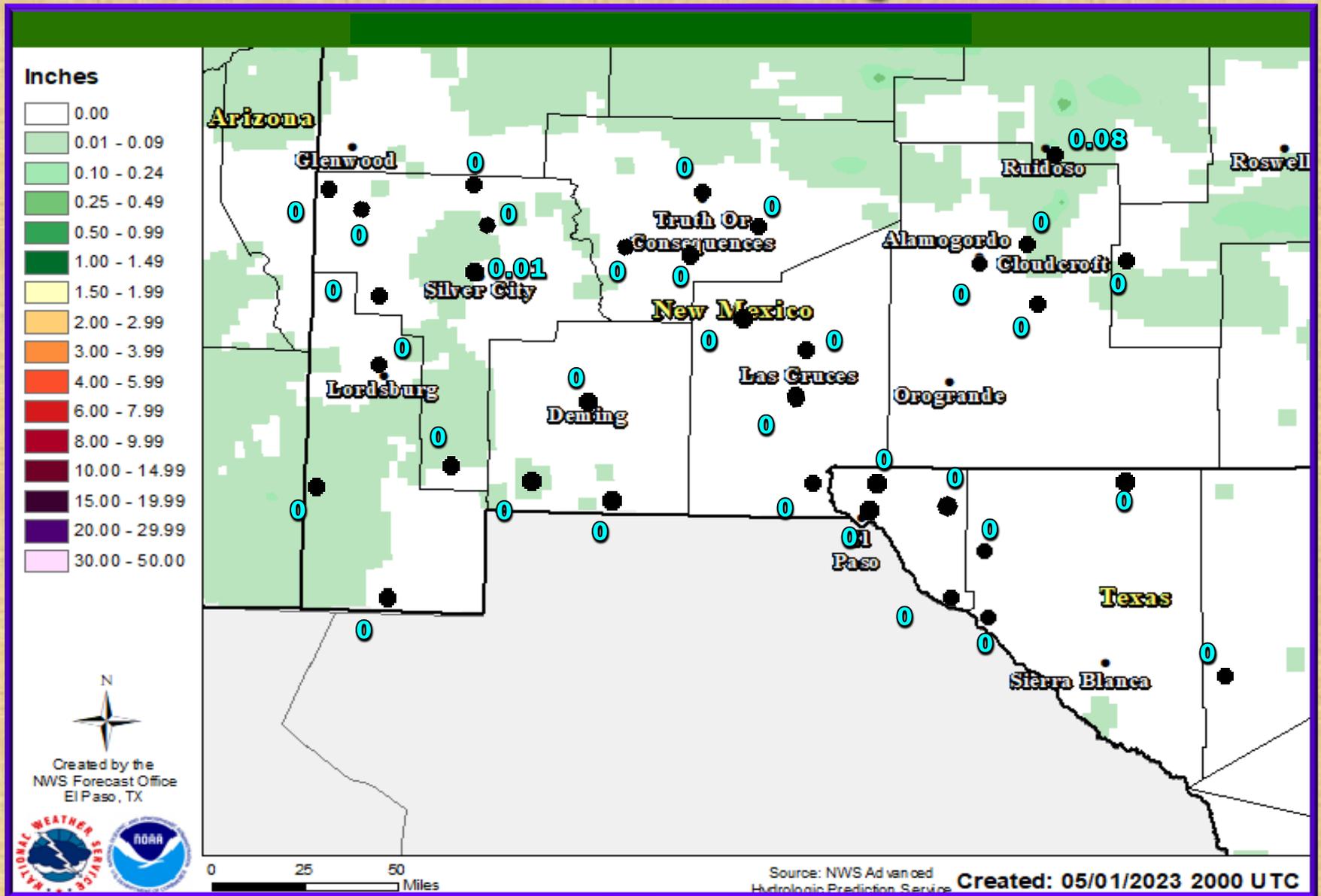
○ = record



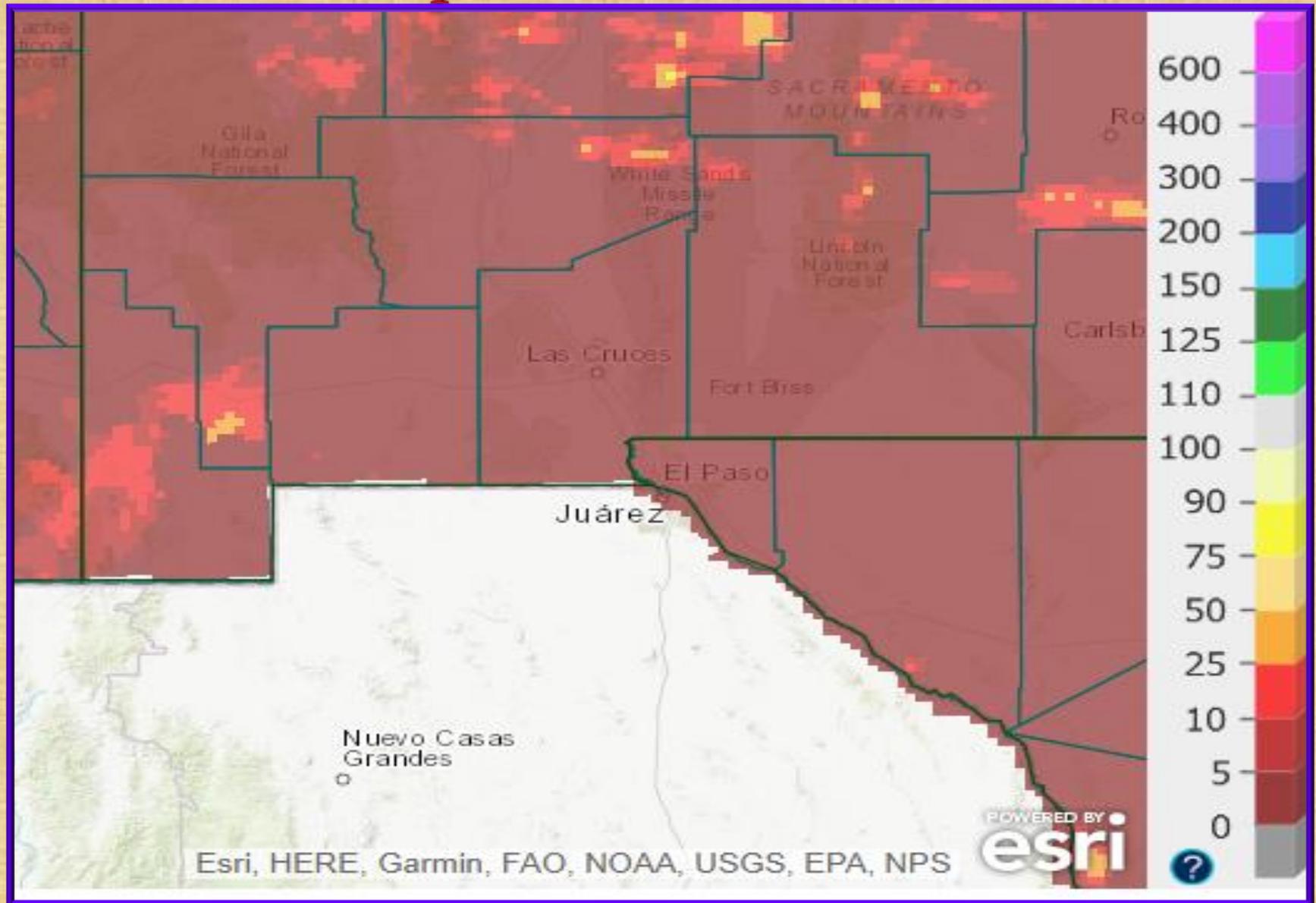
# Temperature and Precipitation for 2023 YTD for El Paso



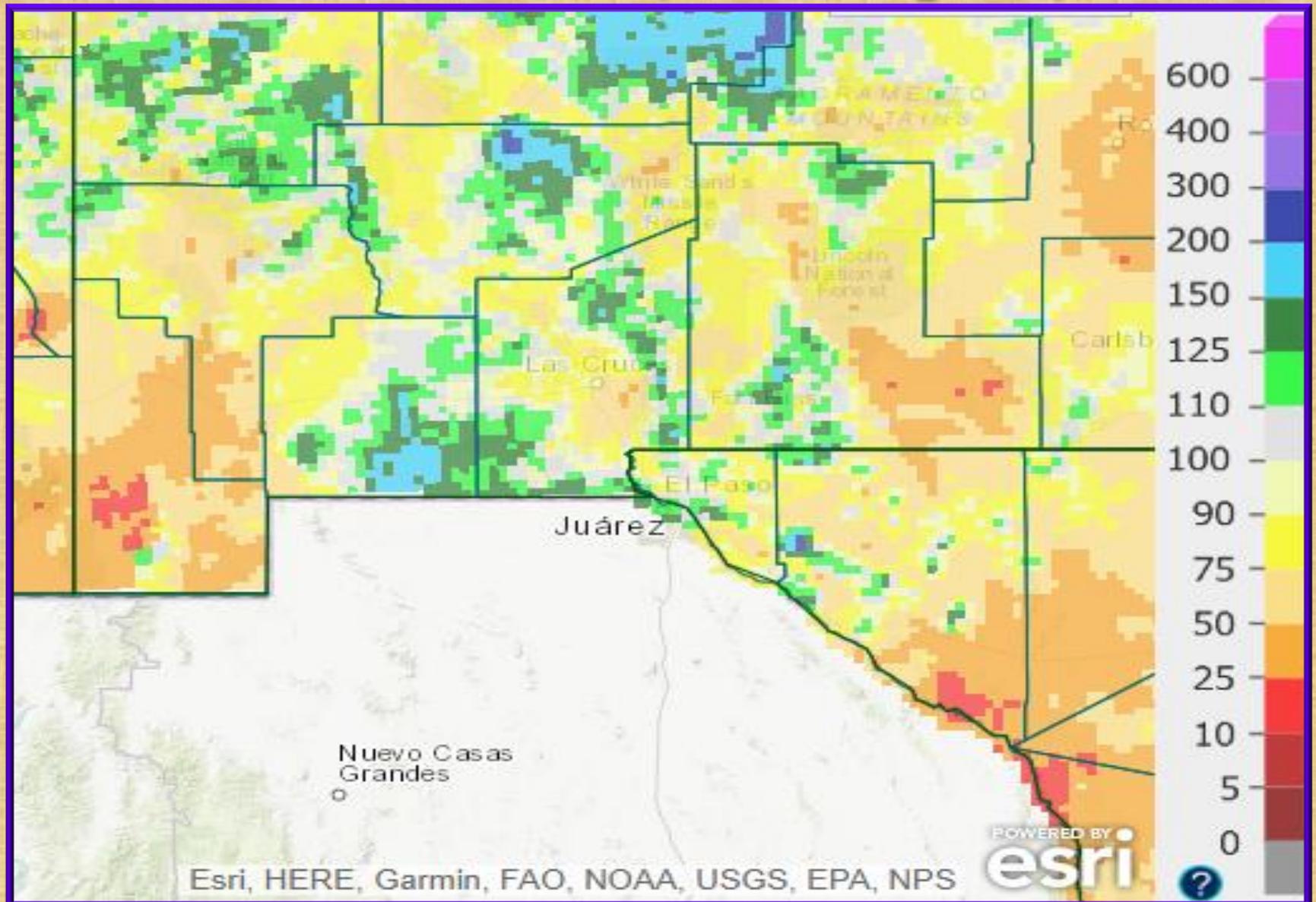
# April 2023 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



# April 2023 rainfall estimate percent of normal



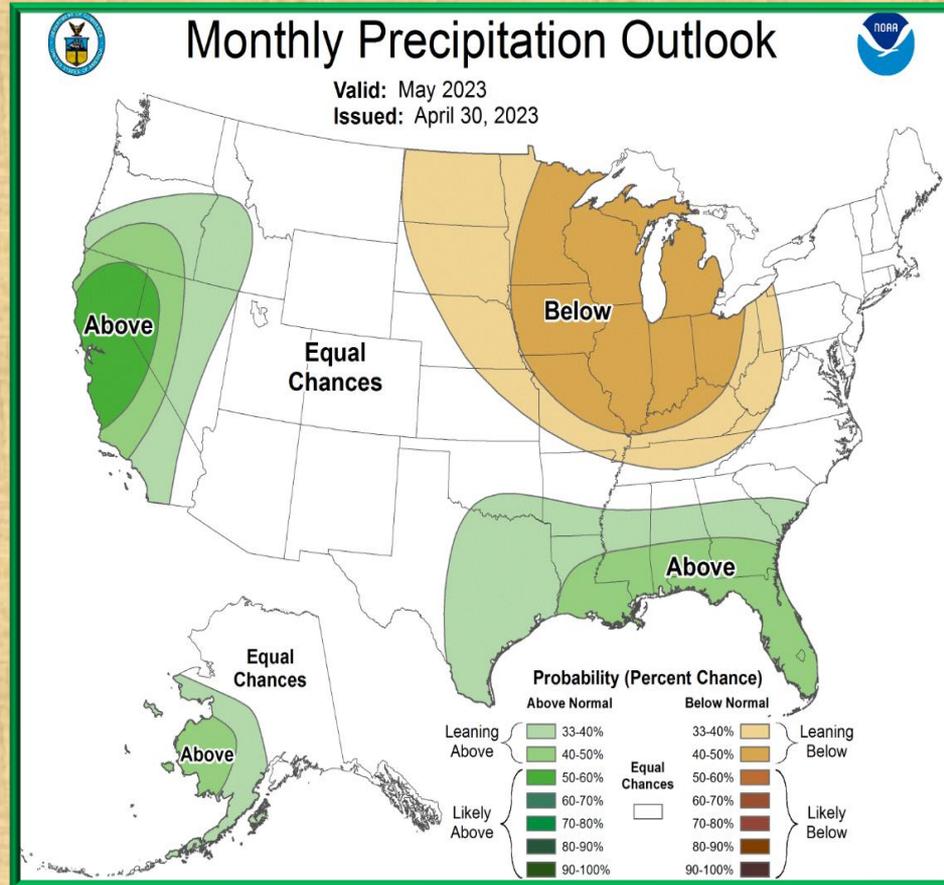
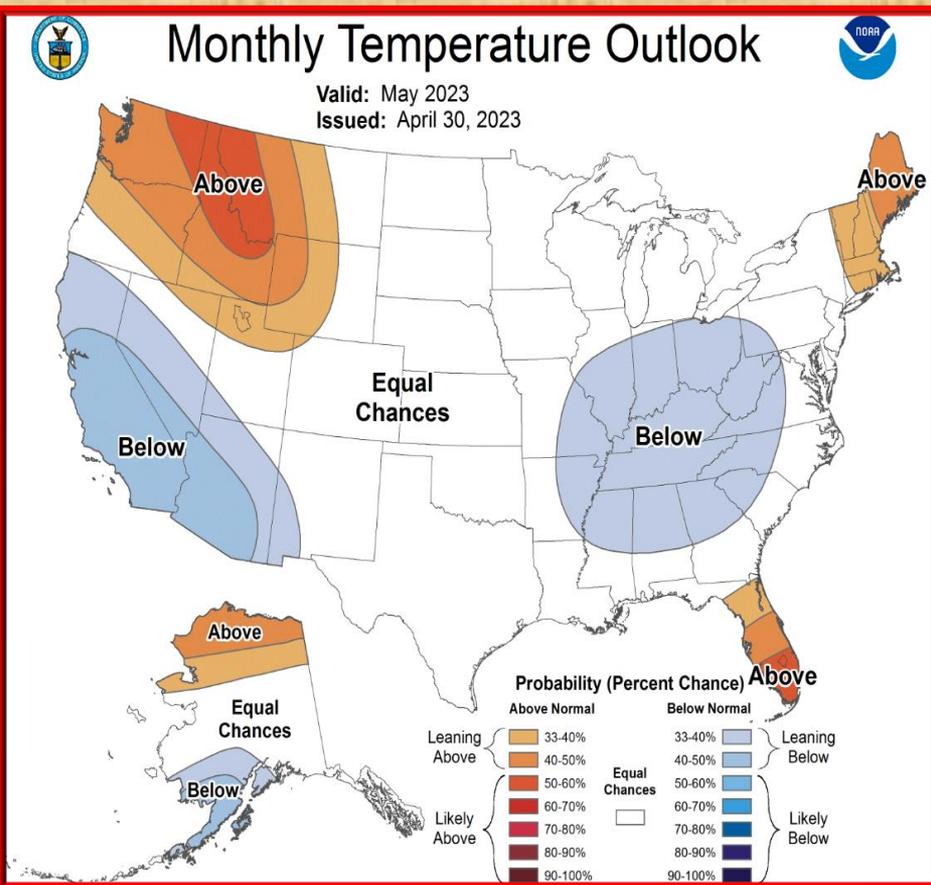
# Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Apr 30)



# Temperature and precipitation outlook For May 2023

## Temperature

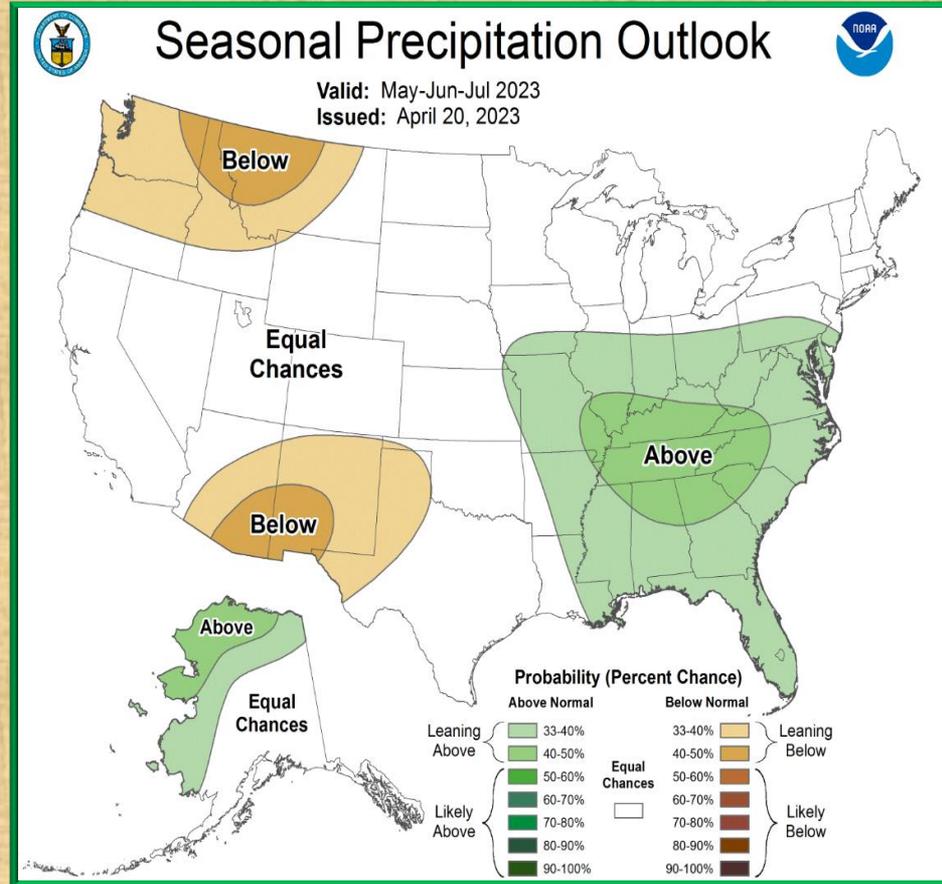
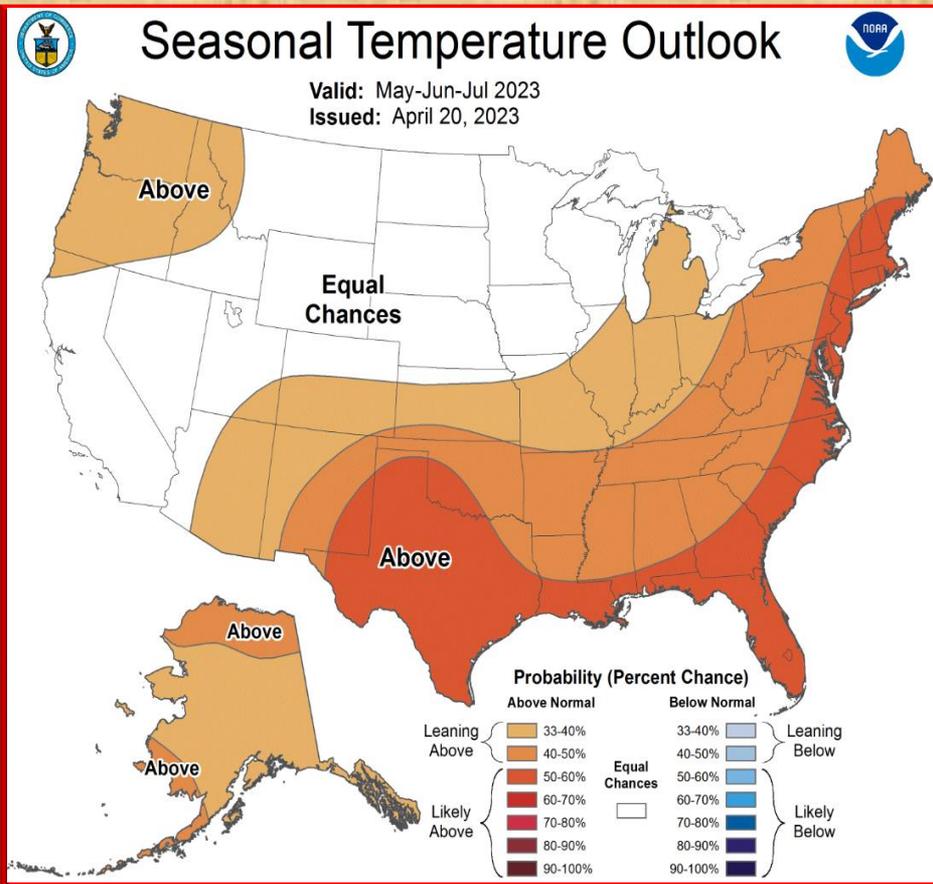
## Precipitation



# Temperature and precipitation outlook for May-Jul 2023

## Temperature

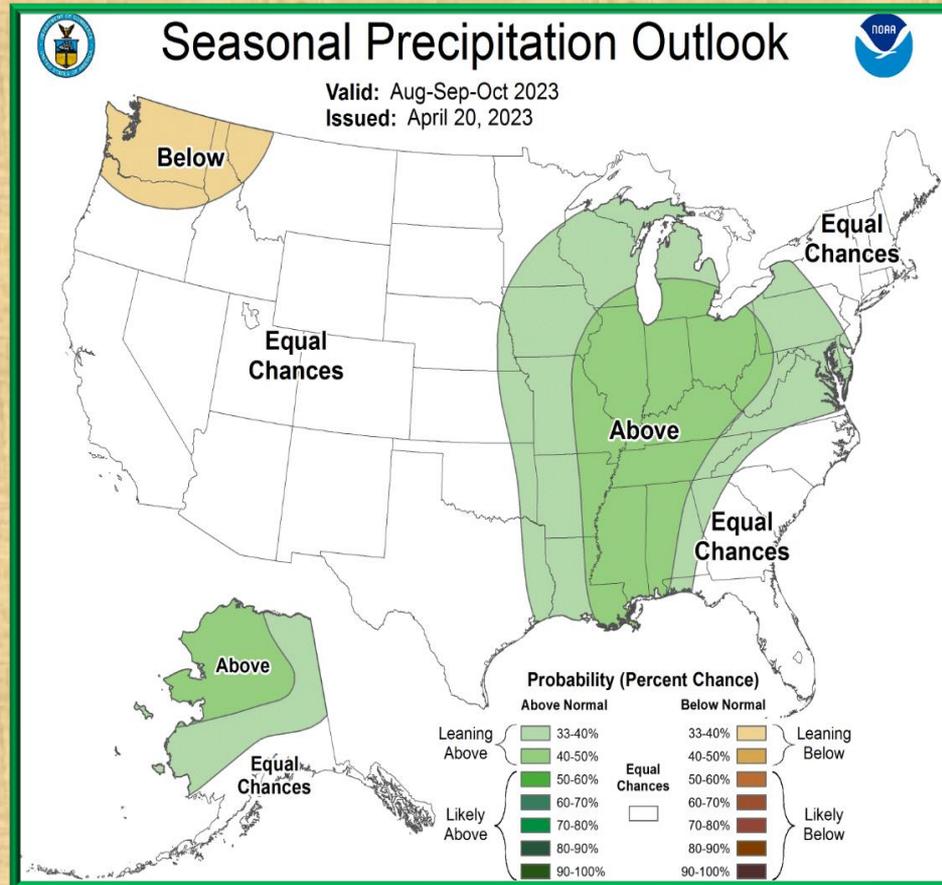
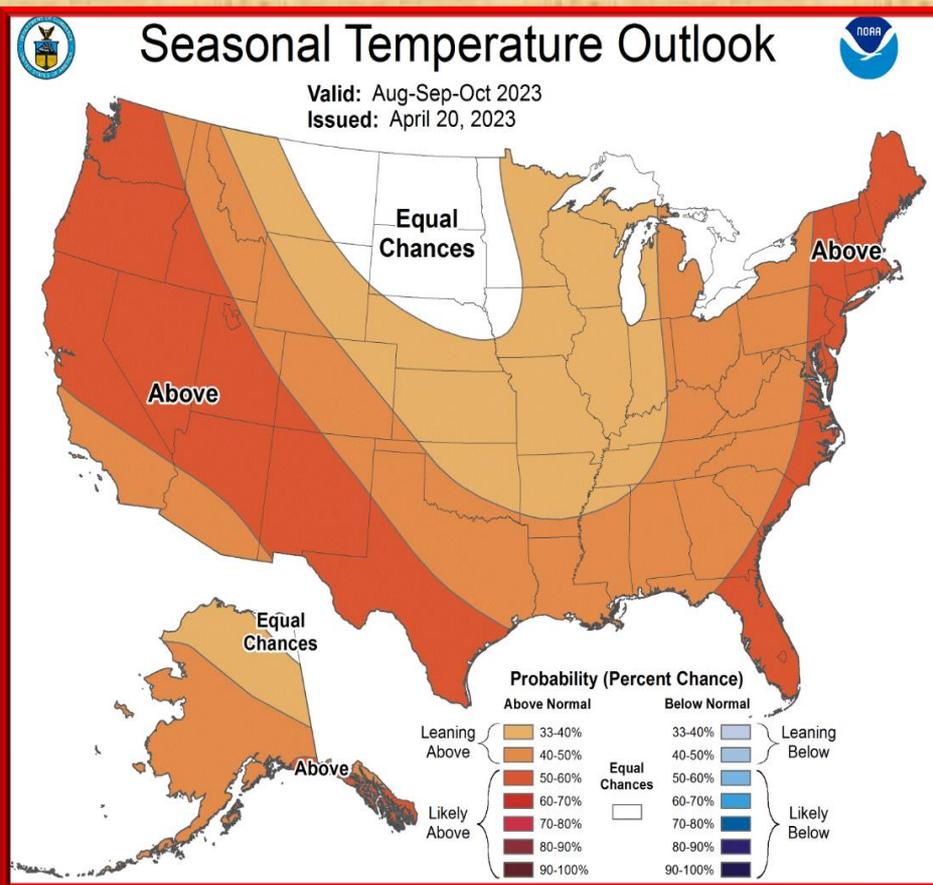
## Precipitation



# Temperature and precipitation outlook for Aug-Oct 2023

## Temperature

## Precipitation

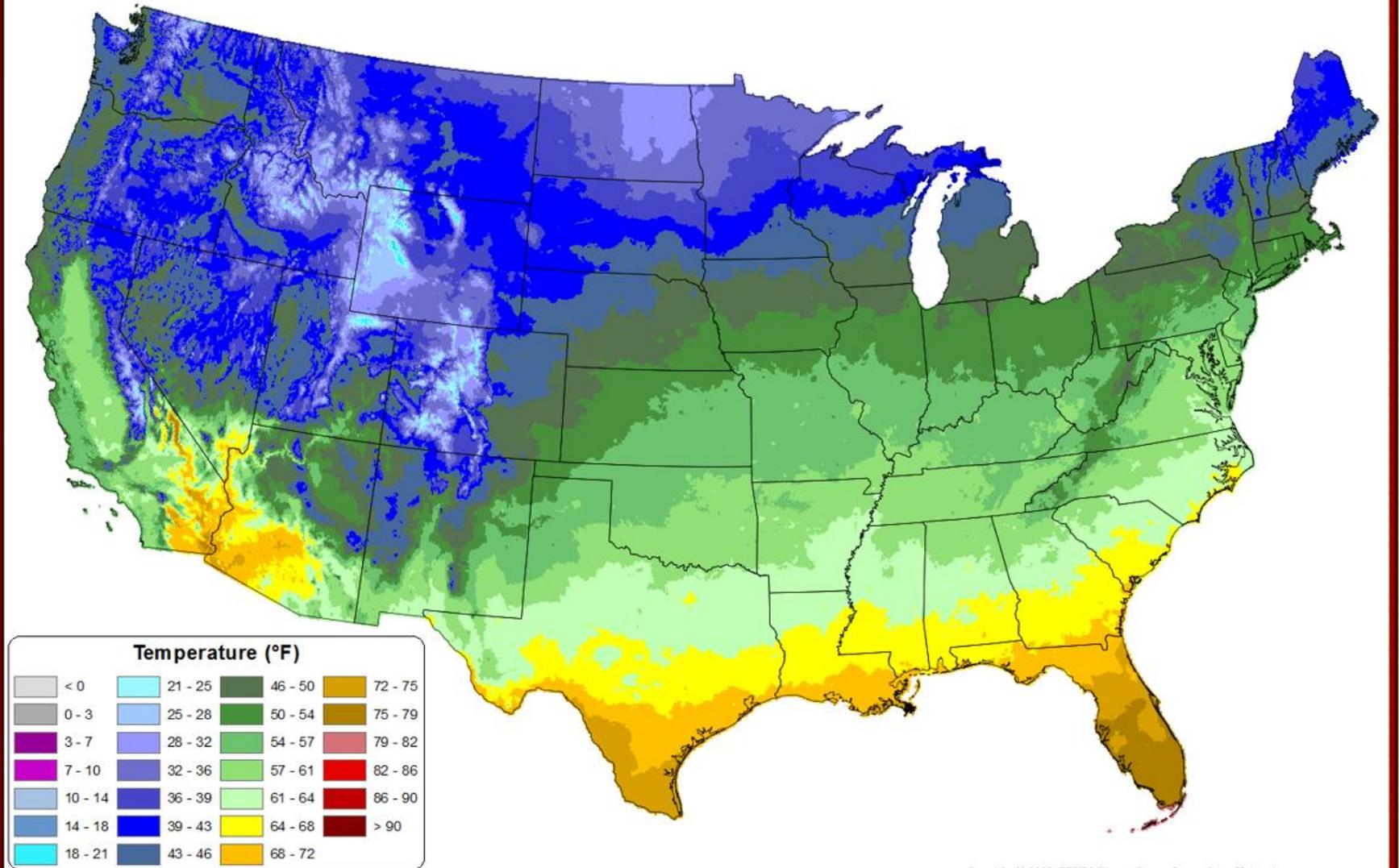


# Average Daily Mean Temperature for April 2023

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Apr 2023 - 30 Apr 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2023

(Map created 01 May 2023)

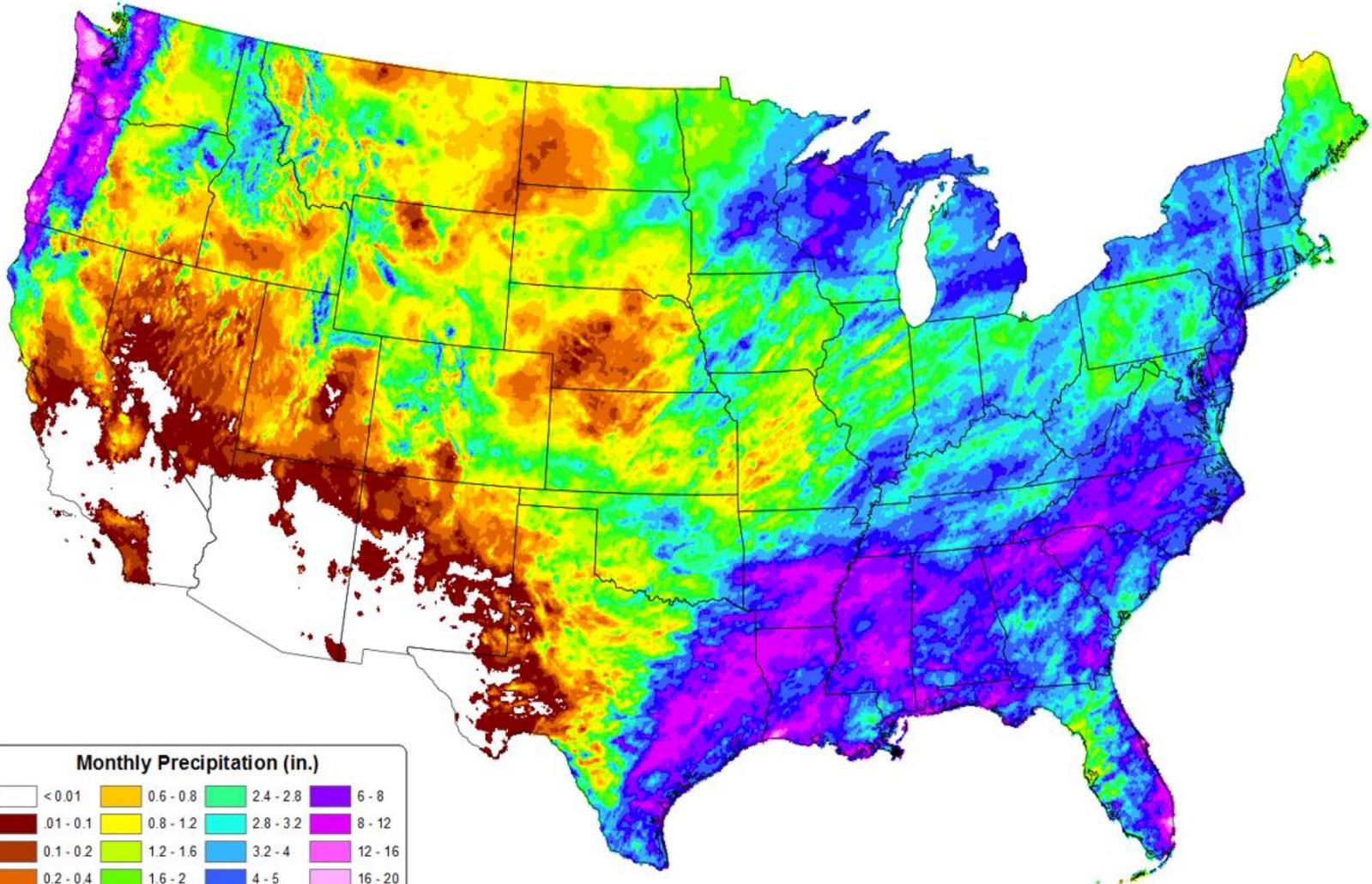


# Total Precipitation for April 2023

Total Precipitation: 01 Apr 2023 - 30 Apr 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2023

(Map created 01 May 2023)



## Monthly Precipitation (in.)

< 0.01	0.6 - 0.8	2.4 - 2.8	6 - 8
0.1 - 0.1	0.8 - 1.2	2.8 - 3.2	8 - 12
0.1 - 0.2	1.2 - 1.6	3.2 - 4	12 - 16
0.2 - 0.4	1.6 - 2	4 - 5	16 - 20
0.4 - 0.6	2 - 2.4	5 - 6	> 20

# Selected Weather Reports April 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
APRIL 3 405 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	74 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 445 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	56 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 410 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP13-HIDALGO	52 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 605 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 515 PM	SANAT TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 734 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	48 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 531 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	48 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 639 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	47 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 841 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	45 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 415 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 330 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	45 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 726 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	44 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected Weather Reports April 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
APRIL 3 550 PM	SPACEPORT AMERICA-SIERRA	44 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 3 615 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORT-OTERO	43 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 230 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	82 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 640 AM	HACHITA VALLEY-HIDALGO	73 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 755 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	69 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 419 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	64 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 401 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	63 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 1135 AM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP9-HIDALGO	62 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 535 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	59 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 843 AM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	59 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 150 PM	SIERRA BLANCE-HUDSPETH	58 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 330 PM	MAYHILL-OTERO	55 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected Weather Reports April 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
APRIL 4 300 PM	DELL CITY-HUDSPETH	52 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 635 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 935 AM	GRANT CO AIRPORT-GRANT	51 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 325 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 930 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	47 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 4 235 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORT-OTERO	46 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 18 310 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	66 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 18 235 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	44 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 18 313 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	41 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 18 1245 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP9-HIDALGO	40 MPH PEAK WIND
APRIL 18 400 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	40 MPH PEAK WIND

# Special Features

[www.weather.gov/epz/elpwindrosedata](http://www.weather.gov/epz/elpwindrosedata)

Month: APRIL

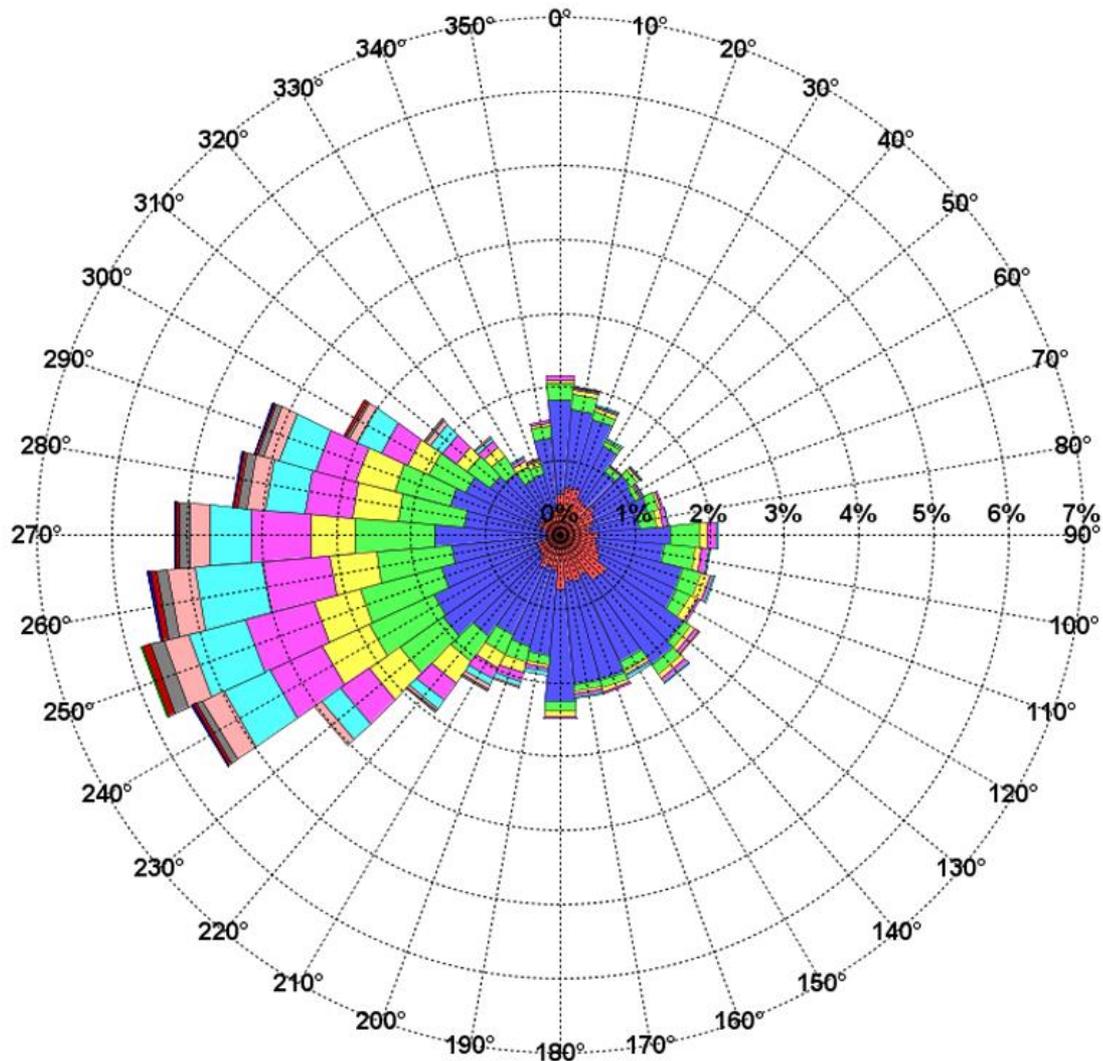
Calm: 6.66%

Variable: 2.29%

## WindRose - KELP - EL PASO INTL

% Frequency of Wind Speed from a Direction

POR:19730101-20140602



Local forecast by "City, St" or ZIP code  
 Enter location ...   
[Location Help](#)

**Heavy Rain and Flash Flooding Possible Over Parts of the Eastern United States**  
 Heavy rainfall is expected over portions of the eastern United States through Thursday. Flooding and flash flooding will be possible in some areas. Click the "Read More" link for excessive rainfall forecasts from the Weather Prediction Center. [Read More >](#)

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[Weather.gov > El Paso, TX](#)

El Paso, TX  
 Weather Forecast Office

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**Today**

**Wednesday**  
 Warmer with a Few Afternoon Storms  
 Weather Forecast Office  
 El Paso, TX  
 September 27, 2016 4:43 PM

Local forecast by "City, St" or ZIP code  
 Enter location ...   
[Location Help](#)

**Heavy rain expected across the Mid-Atlantic region and central Appalachians.**  
 Heavy rainfall is possible over portions of the eastern United States today, with the highest risk across the Mid-Atlantic and central Appalachians. Click the "Read More" link for excessive rainfall forecasts from the Weather Prediction Center. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are possible over portions of the Southwest and southern Rockies through Friday. [Read More >](#)

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[Weather.gov > El Paso, TX > Monthly Weather Digest](#)

El Paso, TX  
 Weather Forecast Office

Current Hazards   Current Conditions   Radar   Forecasts   Rivers and Lakes   Climate and Past Weather   **Local Programs**

Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas has a variety of weather from month to month. Conditions can range from extreme drought, to heavy flooding rains, from record breaking heat to bone chilling cold. Below you will find past weather highlights from the area that the NWS office in Santa Teresa NM covers. This area includes the following counties in New Mexico: Hudspeth, Grant, Luna, Sierra, Doña Ana and Otero and the following counties in Texas: El Paso and Hudspeth.

weather.gov/epz

**Don't Forget-Current and past issues of our Weather Digest are available on our website at [www.weather.gov/epz/](http://www.weather.gov/epz/)**

**Just click on "Local Programs>Weather Digest", then choose which month's Digest to view. Also, though discontinued, don't forget to check out our back issues of Southwest Weather Bulletin.**

WEATHER DIGESTS AND BULLETINS	
Weather Digest	Southwest Weather Bulletins
<a href="#">January</a>	2005 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">February</a>	2006 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">March</a>	2007 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">April</a>	2008 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">May</a>	2009 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">June</a>	2010 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">July</a>	2011 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">August</a>	2012 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">September</a>	2013 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">October</a>	2014 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">November</a>	
<a href="#">December</a>	